

**ONBOARD/THE COLLEGE BOARD E-NEWSLETTER  
COUNSELOR EDITION, NO. 49, FEBRUARY 6, 2007**

**MAIN STORY**

**NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK CELEBRATES COUNSELORS' CONTRIBUTIONS**

February 5 to 9 is National School Counseling Week. This year's theme, "School Counselors: Helping Students Reach New Heights," provides an opportunity to focus public attention on the important contributions of professional school counselors within U.S. school systems. The initiative is sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) and recognizes the role of counselors in preparing students so that they have the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in college and careers.

The College Board and its National Office for School Counselor Advocacy (NOSCA) salute all school counselors for their daily efforts to help students. Because of you, students receive the support and information they need to explore options, make choices, and prepare for successful lives beyond high school.

**HOT TOPICS**

**STUDY FINDS BENEFITS TO ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES**

A team of Texas researchers has concluded that AP(R) courses and exams are "worth it," Jay Mathews wrote in the January 29 edition of the Washington Post.

The study on the value of AP in college success looked at 222,289 students from a variety of backgrounds who attend universities in the Texas system. The researchers said they found "strong evidence of benefits to students who participate in both AP courses and exams in terms of higher GPAs, credit hours earned, and four-year graduation rates," Mathews reported.

The larger of the two studies, by researchers at the University of Texas at Austin, concluded that AP students do better in college than similar students who have taken college courses in high school, a practice known as "dual enrollment." The study also found that even a score of 2 out of a possible 5 points on an AP Exam correlates with better college performance than that achieved by students who did not take AP or who skipped the AP Exam. However, colleges usually give credit only for scores of 3 or above.

A separate University of Texas study of 24,941 students said those who used their AP credits to take more advanced courses in college had better grades in those courses than similar students who first took college introductory courses instead of AP in 10 subjects. Both studies were commissioned by the College Board.

Jay Mathews' article is available online.

<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.23617>

## READERS' CORNER

The editors of onboard invite you to suggest your ideas for topics to cover in future editions. We would like to be sure that we report the news and information you need and enjoy. Please send your comments and suggestions-even propose features that you would like to see-to [onboard@collegeboard.org](mailto:onboard@collegeboard.org).

## THE LATEST FROM US

### NEW COLLEGE BOARD STUDIES AVAILABLE ONLINE

Below is a summary of recent College Board reports that cover topics ranging from the SAT(R) writing section to the comparability of scores on the SAT Reasoning Test(TM). For a full version of the reports and a more extensive list of reports and research notes that are available online, visit <http://www.collegeboard.com/research/home>.

- SAT Writing: An Overview of Research and Psychometrics to Date. The results of this research show that the new writing section is significantly related to first-year college grade point average and college English grades, has been perceived to affect high school curriculum, and does not result in a larger score disparity among ethnic groups. The full report will be available in early February.
- The Relationship between PSAT/NMSQT(R) Scores and AP Examination Grades: A Follow-Up Study reexamines more recent test data to obtain additional validation evidence for using the PSAT/NMSQT to identify AP students. This study provides additional validation evidence for the use of PSAT/NMSQT scores in predicting success on AP Examinations. <http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.19537>
- Comparability of Scores on the New and Prior Versions of the SAT Reasoning Test. This report presents a synthesis of several research studies on the comparability of scores on the new and prior versions of the SAT. The report also addresses issues of equitability. The report confirms that scores on the SAT Reasoning Test are comparable to scores on the prior SAT I: Reasoning Test. <http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.23618>
- Investigating the Effects of Increased SAT Reasoning Test Length and Time on Performance of Regular SAT Examinees. The study found no evidence that the current SAT test length has affected examinee performance at the population level or across gender and racial/ethnic groups. This study will be available online in February.

## SAT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT(TM)

The College Board offers a series of online workshops on SAT preparation topics. The workshops help teachers better understand the SAT and prepare their students for the test and college success. They are offered in public and private formats. Public workshops are open to all educators and are held on dates scheduled by the College

Board. Private workshops are arranged at the request of a high school, district, or other educational organization that invites its own attendees.

Attendees of SAT Professional Development workshops receive a manual with activities they can use in the classroom, SAT preparation materials, and a copy of ScoreWrite(TM): A Guide to Preparing for the SAT Essay. Follow these links for workshop details:

- \* Animating Student Writing  
<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.23540>
- \* Holistic Scoring  
<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.23541>
- \* School-Based SAT Preparation  
<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.23542>
- \* Writing Preparation for Educators of ESL/ELL Students  
<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.23543>

The College Board is an authorized provider of IACET Continuing Education Units (CEU). To view the schedule of workshops, or to register, go to SAT Workshop Schedule. <http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.23545>

## **EXITO ESCOLAR BILINGUAL SITE LAUNCHED**

Exito Escolar: Educating Latinos for the Future of America, the College Board program to increase awareness of Hispanic issues in education now has a website that provides news related to the Hispanic community, including future conferences and other College Board initiatives.

Visit <http://www.collegeboard.com/exitoescolar>.

## **FORUM 2007: SESSION AND WORKSHOP PROPOSALS SOUGHT**

Mark Your Calendars for

October 24 - 27, 2007

Hilton New York

New York, NY

<http://www.collegeboard.com/forum>

The theme of Forum 2007 is Setting the Agenda for Education. In light of the upcoming 2008 presidential election, we must help ensure that improving the education of all students is a national priority. During the conference, we will explore the most pressing concerns that affect both state and federal programs, including advocacy, access to higher education, and student preparation.

The Forum Program Planning Committee is now accepting session and workshop proposals. The deadline is Friday, March 16. We invite counselors to submit proposals on vital and emerging topics in their field.

To learn more and submit a proposal online, visit  
<http://www.collegeboard.com/forum>.

## **NET TIPS FROM NOSCA**

National Office for School Counselor Advocacy

<http://www.collegeboard.com/prof/counselors/nosca.html>

## **BEWARE OF SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS**

- Scams often surface whenever a process seems complicated or confusing. Students and parents too frequently become targets for scholarship companies that guarantee scholarships or help in applying for federal financial aid.
- These three articles, ready to print and available for students and parents, provide accurate and reliable information about the financial aid process:
  - Can You Spot a Scholarship Scam?  
<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.23274>
  - Where the Scholarships Are  
<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.22732>
  - How To Apply for a Scholarship  
<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.23619>

## **TIPS FROM THE COLLEGE COUNSELING SOURCEBOOK: ADVICE AND STRATEGIES FROM EXPERIENCED SCHOOL COUNSELORS**

### **FINANCIAL AID DEADLINES AND PRIORITY DATES**

Many colleges have a priority date but no firm deadline for applying for financial aid. Urge students to apply by the priority date. This is the date by which the college needs the application to award the most attractive aid package. After this date, funds may be limited or depleted, and students may not get as much aid as they need. The College Board Guide to Getting Financial Aid lists priority dates for each college.

"Have a financial aid buddy at a private college and one at a public college. Then when you have really unusual situations you can call someone who can help you. The administrator will welcome the opportunity to counsel you and your students."

-- Carlene Riccelli, Amherst Regional High School, Massachusetts

The College Counseling Sourcebook

<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.23623>

Guide to Getting Financial Aid

<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.23624>

## **LOOK AHEAD TO SUMMER AND NEXT YEAR WITH MyRoad(TM)**

The time to help your students select courses for next year and plan enriching summer activities is fast approaching. MyRoad can help. Within the extensive collection of articles on college majors, MyRoad includes pages called High School Courses. There students will find advice on making the most of their high school years -- academically and otherwise -- to prepare for particular college majors.

High school students who took the PSAT/NMSQT in 2006 have free access to MyRoad through My College QuickStart™. Use this temporary user name and password -- myroadguest/myroad2 -- to check out MyRoad's Explore Majors now.

<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.23620>

## **EVENTS CALENDAR**

\* February 7-9, 2007

Southern Regional Forum, Renaissance Concourse Hotel,  
Atlanta, Georgia

<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.23455>

\* February 11-13, 2007

New England Regional Forum, Boston Marriott Copley Place,  
Boston, Massachusetts

<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.23625>

\* February 14-16, 2007

Middle States Regional Forum, Renaissance Harborplace Hotel,  
Baltimore, Maryland

<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.17149>

\* February 25-27, 2007

Midwestern Regional Forum, Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile,  
Chicago, Illinois

<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.3909>

\* February 25-27, 2007

Western Regional Forum, Palace Hotel,  
San Francisco, California

<http://click.collegeboard.com:80/202248053.55497.0.1862>

\* March 14-17, 2007

Latin American Conference (Sponsored by the Puerto Rico and Latin America Office),  
Hotel El Panama, Panama

## **STUDENTS AND PARENTS UPDATE**

View the latest student newsletters:

Freshmen

<http://www.collegeboard.com/email/FroshNewsletter.html>

Sophomores

<http://www.collegeboard.com/email/SophNewsletter.html>

Juniors

<http://www.collegeboard.com/email/JuniorNewsletter.html>

Seniors

<http://www.collegeboard.com/email/SeniorNewsletter.html>

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## **THE COLLEGE BOARD: CONNECTING STUDENTS TO COLLEGE SUCCESS**

The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 5,200 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves seven million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT(R), the PSAT/NMSQT(R), and the Advanced Placement Program(R) (AP(R)). The College Board is committed to the principles of excellence and equity, and that commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities, and concerns.